



Ellendale Fire Company

Date: April 4, 2005 Meeting Date: March 30, 2005

Location: Ellendale Fire Company

Purpose: Central Sussex County Transportation Management Team (TMT) Kickoff Meeting

List of Committee Members and Meeting Attendees:

See Attached Sheets

Handouts provided during the meeting:

- Central Sussex TMT Contact List
- Central Sussex Transportation Map

I. Opening Remarks

Gene Donaldson (DelDOT TMC) welcomed the group and opened the meeting with brief introductions from the meeting attendees. He listed several accomplishments to date including the countywide TMT meetings in New Castle County (Jan. 25), Sussex County (Feb. 9), and Kent County (Mar. 2). At the Sussex County TMT Meeting, the group agreed to proceed with TMTs for the eastern (SR 1), central (US 113), and western (US 13) areas of Sussex County.

Next, Gene gave a brief background on the TMT concept. He discussed levels of response for different "levels" of incidents. Gene also explained DelDOT's roles in the Delaware Emergency Operations Plan (DEOP) Emergency Support Functions (ESF). DelDOT is the primary agency for two of the 21 ESFs – ESF 1: Transportation and ESF 3: Public Works and Engineering.

Gene stated that the purpose of the meeting was to develop short-term and long-term action items for the critical issues and concerns affecting emergency response in Central Sussex County. After the meeting goals, Gene opened up the floor for discussion.

II. Open Discussion

Critical Coverage Areas

Gene suggested that the group begin by identifying the critical roadways in the area. John Hall (Sussex Co. Fire Police Assoc.) suggested focusing on the capacity of the following east-west routes:

- o US 9
- o DE 16
- o DE 20
- o DE 24
- o DE 26
- o DE 54
- o DE 404
- o Road 40

Mr. Hall stated that a major part of the problem is that people have built right up to the right-of-way, and road construction/maintenance projects cannot keep up with the area's growth.





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Bill Wadkins (Wadkins Towing – Milford) asked how the TMC could allow northbound traffic to back up from the Dover Toll Plaza to Milford if the signals are all part of the computerized system. Chris Marsh (DelDOT TMC) stated that the primary cause is the limited capacity of the Dover Toll Plaza. Gene said that the TMC is aware of the problem and addresses it by using portable message signs to advise motorists to use US 113 and US 13 through Dover instead of SR 1.

US 113 North / South Study

Ralph Clausen (Georgetown Fire Co.) asked whether there were plans to build an overhead ramp at US 113 and DE 404 for westbound turning vehicles (similar to the overhead ramp at US 113 & SR 1 in Milford). Gene noted that this intersection was part of the US 113 North/South planning study. Gene added that the traffic signal at US 113 & DE 404 is not currently on the computerized signal system and could not be adjusted to accommodate changes in traffic flow. He indicated that the signal would be online before summer.

Andrew Hamilton (Ellendale Fire Co.) noted the importance of incorporating emergency access components into the planning and design of US 113. Ralph Clausen added that Road 40 (Redden Rd.) is used as an alternate route to DE 404; however, the US 113 plans do not include an interchange with Road 40. Mr. Clausen also requested a permanent VMS board along DE 404 for detour purposes.

Gene stated that it is important for the group to better understand the US 113 North/South study, and he suggested having someone from DelDOT's US 113 team address the TMT.

Beach Evacuation

Jamie Turner (DEMA) suggested that the group develop a plan to evacuate vehicles out of the beach area in 24 hours. He stated that based on 1990 Census data, at least 30 hours would be required to evacuate 300,000 vehicles on a non-holiday weekend. He noted that on a holiday weekend approximately 500,000 vehicles would need to be evacuated during a State of Emergency. Mr. Turner further indicated that Evacuations was a new ESF, which would be led by Major R.L. Hughes of the DSP.

Rich Toulson (DelDOT South District) indicated that addressing issues like the beach evacuation is what the TMT is all about. Rich added that northbound US 113 would also be impacted by traffic from Ocean City, Maryland during evacuations.

"Clear-the-Road" Policy

Chief Moore asked whether there was any upcoming policy/legislation to address moving "fender-benders" off the traveled roadway. Gene responded that clear-the-road policies exist in other states (e.g., Maryland and Texas), and that the TMT could work as a group to pursue such legislation. Gene added that a TMT Steering Committee has been formed to address issues that may require legislation.

Mr. Toulson asked whether emergency personnel have authority to move disabled vehicles off the traveled roadway when the Governor declares a State of Emergency. Jamie Turner answered yes, and that it has been done in the past.





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Gene expressed the opinion that stalled vehicles could be removed much quicker if DelDOT could directly call the towers. Presently, DelDOT calls the 911 Center to report a stalled vehicle, the 911 Center calls DSP, and DSP calls the towers.

Electronic Red Light Safety Program (ERLSP)

Mr. Hall asked who should be notified when accidents occur at intersections with red-light running cameras. Gene told the group to notify the TMC, and they will notify the contractor. He further stated that the program is relatively new, so there will be a number of issues to be resolved.

DelDOT's After-Hours Response and Resources

Mr. Clausen commented on DelDOT's after-hours support at incident scenes. He asked why DelDOT does not have trucks already loaded for spills instead of having a supervisor find an available driver to load the truck then respond (often resulting in a two-hour wait).

Gene agreed that DelDOT needed to work on its after-hours response. He said that this issue has been brought up at all TMT meetings, and it will be addressed statewide. Gene stated that the multi-agency TMTs have a powerful voice that will allow this issue to get the attention it deserves. Rich Toulson reiterated that DelDOT does not have a designated on-call list, and he added that some maintenance yards keep a loaded truck available.

Mr. Clausen observed that in the past when a DelDOT vehicle with an arrow board was asked to go to an incident location, they disappeared and never showed up at the location. Gene said that the TMC should be notified of these instances. Ralph also suggested that DelDOT Areas not be concerned with boundaries. He said he observed trucks from Gravel Hill traveling on US 9 with their snowplows up, because it is outside of their jurisdiction.

Resources

Gene stated that the TMT needs to understand what resources they have as a group, where these resources are located, and when these resources are available. Mr. Wadkins told the group that towers often have resources that can be brought to the scene when they are dispatched - e.g., stay-dry, sand, etc.

Gene indicated that when DelDOT resources are needed the Fire Board should be called and they will in turn call the TMC to dispatch the support.

Training

Gene stated that the TMT agencies needed to work together on training (e.g, NIMS, ODP, etc.). He said that DelDOT was the least trained of all the agencies.

Leadership

The group agreed that Chief Rowland Moore would be the leader for the Central Sussex County TMT.





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III. Action Items

See attached spreadsheet.

IV. Next Meeting

The group proposed to hold future meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting will be held on Wed., April 20 at 7:00pm at the Ellendale Fire Hall.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Gene at <u>gene.donaldson@state.de.us</u> or (302) 659-2404. Additionally, Edwards and Kelcey is providing consulting support and helping assist DelDOT in coordinating the efforts. Tony Clarke and Matt Buckley can be reached at <u>cclarke@ekmail.com</u> / (410) 646-4505 and <u>mbuckley@ekmail.com</u> / (610) 701-7000, respectively.



MINUTES OF MEETING Central Sussex County TMT Meeting March 30, 2005 Ellendale Fire Company



List of Committee Members and Meeting Attendees:

"X" in attendance

	Austin	Steve	Emergency Responder Safety Institute	steveaustin@earthlink.net
	Baker	Billy	Carlisle of Milford Fire Company & DE Fire School	william.baker@state.de.us
	Bock	Ken	DelDOT/DTC	ken.bock@state.de.us
	Bracco	Robert	Civil Air Patrol	bobbracco@comcast.net
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	Carey	Alan	DE Fire Police Assoc. (Pres.)	abctow8757722@yahoo.com
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X	DeFord	Frank	Sussex Co. Fire Police Assoc. (Pres.)	
	Dempsey	Tucker	DE Fire Chief's Assoc. (2nd Vice Pres.)	
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	Eckman	Robert	Selbyville Fire Company	
	Evans	Jeff	Millsboro Fire Company	
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X	Hamilton	Andrew	Ellendale Fire Company & Wadkins Towing	aham42@comcast.net
	Hawkins	Steve	Indian River of Oak Orchard Fire Company	



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	Rogers	Lynn	Milton Fire Company	
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Central Sussex County TMT Action Items

Issues (Action Items)	Priority	"Data" Needs	Assigned	Submitter(s)	Task Leader	Legislation / Policies?	Status
1 Develop TMT plans for Critical Roadways East - West Routes US 9 DE 16, 20, 24, 26, 54, 404 Road 40	Med	Traffic volumes & roadway capacities Accident data Bridges - height & weight restrictions DelTrac tools (existing and proposed) Detour route checklist Roadway construction (existing and proposed) Capital Transportation Program	3/30/2005	John Hall - Sussex Fire Police Assoc.			Ongoing
2 Improve DelDOT's After-Hour Response STATEWIDE TMT ACTION ITEM	High	List of available resources (per time of day) List of DeIDOT communication tools	3/30/2005	Ralph Clausen - Georgetown Fire Co.			Ongoing
3 Understand US 113 North / South Study Alternatives	High	Plan alternatives DelDOT point of contact Status of planning study	3/30/2005	Ralph Clausen - Georgetown Fire Co. Andrew Hamilton - Ellendale Fire Co.			Ongoing
4 Evacuations 24-hour goal during State of Emergency "Clear-the-road" policy	High	Evacuation routes map Roadway capacities	3/30/2005	Jamie Turner - DEMA			Ongoing
5 Resources People Equipment Vehicles Materials	Med	List of available resources (per agency) List of resource needs	3/30/2005	Gene Donaldson - DelDOT			Ongoing
6 Conduct Training and Exercises	Med	List of agency training and exercises List of resource needs	3/30/2005	Gene Donaldson - DelDOT			Ongoing